

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 IO-13 ACDA-12 /096 W
-----065597 030938Z /13

R 030256Z JUN 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 0942
INFO /AMEMBASSY TAIPEI 1609
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONO HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1662

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 116& : GDS
TAGS: PEPR SOP N CH US TW

SUBJ: AFP INTERVIEW WITH CHEN YI-SUNG

REF: PEKING 1599

1. NPC STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER CHEN YI-SUNG'S INTERVIEW WITH AFP CLOSELY PARALLELED HIS EARLIER PRESENTATION TO KHYODO (REFTEL). HE ONCE AGAIN STATED, "SPEAKING FOR MYSELF," THAT PEKING HAS NO INTENTION OF USING ARMED FORCE TO CONQUER TAIWAN FOLLOWING A BREAK IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH TAIPEI, AND THAT HE EXPECTS NORMALIZATION TO FORCE CHIANG CHING-KUO INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEKING. THE MAJOR NEW ELEMENT IN THE INTERVIEW WAS CHEN'S REFERENCE TO A 1973 CONVERSATION WITH CHOU EN-LAI SHORTLY AFTER CHEN'S ARRIVAL ON THE MAINLAND. ACCORDING TO CHEN, CHOU ASSURED HIM SEVERAL TIMES THAT CHINESE REUNIFICATION WOULD TAKE PLACE IN DUE TIME AND THAT THERE WAS "NO QUESTION OF
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ADOPTING A MILITARY SOLUTION" IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH IT.

2. CHEN ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION TO BLAME THE "GANG OF FOUR" FOR MUCH OF THE HARSH RHETORIC ABOUT TAIWAN IN RECENT YEARS. WHILE THE GANG RELIED ON "ABSTRACT THEORIES", THE PRESENT CHINESE LEADERS ARE PRAGMATIC AND WILL WORK FOR AN AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM TAIWAN

AND THEN UNDERTAKE PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH TAIPEI."
HE ALSO STATED THAT THE DOWNFALL OF THE GANG HAD CUT
THE GROUND OUT FROM UNDER THE ADVOCATES OF TAIWANESE
INDEPENDENCE.

3. COMMENT: CHEN'S REMARKS ONCE AGAIN REPRESENT AN
EFFORT TO PERSUADE OUTSIDERS -- IN AN UNOFFICIAL AND
DENIABLE MANNER - OF CHINA'S PACIFIC INTENTIONS WITH
RESPECT TO TAIWAN. THERE IS NO SIGN, HOWEVER, THAT
MORE OFFICIAL ASSURANCES ON THIS POINT WILL BE FORTHCOMING.
WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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